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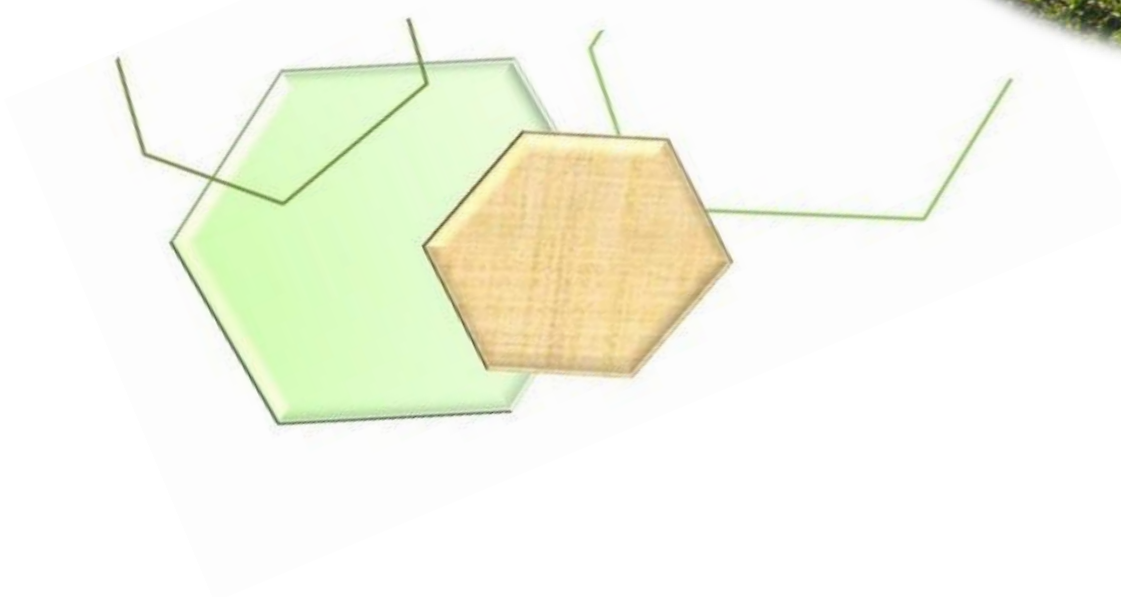
EAGER - Easing Agrophotovoltaics for Europe

Newsletter № 13

September 2026

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EAGER helps policymakers in promoting agrophotovoltaics to foster harmony between agriculture and open-space solar systems.



What is EAGER

[The EAGER project](#) is a European project funded by the INTERREG Europe Programme that facilitates the adoption of agro-photovoltaic systems across partner regions. By fostering a shared understanding of this technology, identifying best practices, and enhancing policy instruments, this project is paving the way for a greener future.

The expansion of renewable energies aims at meeting the energy demand of the EU while replacing fossil fuels, but it requires large areas of land. At the same time, food security is threatened by the impacts of climate change and a growing world population. **Agrophotovoltaics (APV) can mitigate the conflicting interests between agriculture and open space photovoltaic systems** for viable land, as it allows to produce energy and food at the same time in the same place through a combination of farming and solar generation with a total **land use efficiency of up to 186%**. This is why the EAGER project aims at improving policies **to ease APV in Europe**. It will enable the definition and set-up of favourable policy framework conditions for implementing APV as a praxis-oriented concept for achieving Greener Europe.

In the following pages, you will find interesting materials describing the overall context and objectives of the project as well as information on the latest developments and current events.

We shall keep you informed about our progress and key outcomes through the project website, thematic events, and newsletters.

Project at a glance

By generating a common understanding of APV concept and contexts, identifying, analysing, and transferring good practices, changing behaviour among policy actors of the participating regions towards supporting and expanding APV in their regions, **9 policy instruments** will be improved by 2027. The 14 partners and 3 associated policy responsible authorities are committed to high-quality and efficient exchange of experience and policy improvement, acknowledging that the topic of APV is multi-layered and complex. It considers the policy fields of energy, agriculture, spatial development, and land use, with impacts on economic development, and has the potential to contribute to sustainability and energy security. Its novelty in the regions encourages out of the box thinking and an innovative interpretation of good practices in the broadest sense.

A few numbers



2,440,007 €
budget



01 Apr 2024-
30 Jun 2028



14 partners

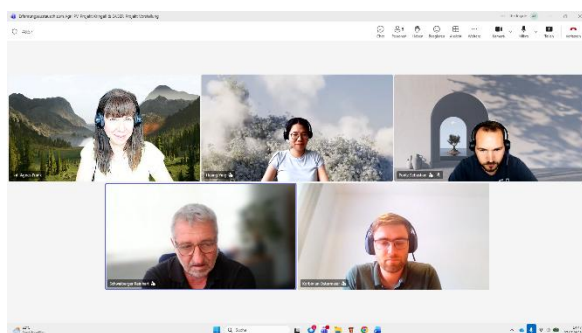
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NEWS FROM GERMANY

Lower Bavaria: Combining Agriculture with Renewable Energy

An Agri-PV project planned in the municipality of Hutthurm, Lower Bavaria, is now moving forward after the municipal council approved changes to its criteria catalogue for open-space photovoltaic installations.



Date: 27th July 2026

Location: Online

The project is planned in cooperation between BürgerEnergie Niederbayern (BEN) and the state-owned farm in Kringell. It aims to combine agricultural production with renewable electricity generation on the same land. Covering approximately 19.8 hectares of farmland, the project will use 2.1-meter-high overhead photovoltaic mounting structures, allowing agricultural activities to continue underneath the solar panels.

A key feature of the project is the involvement of BürgerEnergie Niederbayern, a citizen-energy cooperative. This gives the project a different ownership model from a conventional solar

development led by an external commercial investor. Through the cooperative, local residents can participate financially in the project by purchasing shares. One cooperative share costs €500, with individuals able to purchase up to 60 shares. This allows citizens to become financially involved in renewable-energy generation and potentially benefit from the economic returns of the project.

The Kringell project also illustrates that an Agri-PV energy-community project requires cooperation between several different actors. BürgerEnergie Niederbayern represents the citizen-energy and project-development perspective. Its role is to bring citizens into the project and organize participation through the cooperative model. The state-owned farm in Kringell represents the agricultural side of the project. Its involvement is important because Agri-PV must be designed around the continued use of the land for agriculture. The municipality of Hutthurm plays an important role through local planning and the criteria governing open-space photovoltaic projects. The council's decision to modify its criteria has helped create the planning framework for the project to move forward. The Kringell Agri-PV project can therefore be seen as more than an individual photovoltaic installation. It provides an example of how energy communities could become a bridge between citizens, farmers, municipalities and renewable-energy companies.

The Kringell case provides a practical example for the EAGER project of how to foster local participation in renewable energy projects, and create models that enable citizens to participate in both the ownership and economic benefits of

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the energy transition. It also highlights the importance of cooperation across the local energy ecosystem, bringing together municipalities, landowners, citizen cooperatives and technical project partners. By examining how these actors work together in practice, the Kringell experience can provide valuable insights for EAGER's future policy development across different regions.

Two Agri-PV Systems in Ruhstorf Demonstrate the Potential of Dual Land Use



Source: PNP.de (Passauer Neue Presse), photo by Markus Lindmeier

Date: 8th August 2026

Location: Ruhstorf, Germany

The first two Agri-PV projects in Ruhstorf have now been completed and connected to the electricity grid. The two family-owned farms, operated by the Ranzinger and Winklhofer families in Ruhstorf, Germany, have installed Agri-PV systems with a combined capacity of 451 kWp. Each installation can feed up to 300 kW into the low-voltage grid. Together, the systems are expected to generate an amount of electricity roughly equivalent to the annual

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electricity demand of 160 households, depending on consumption.

Both installations use solar tracking systems, allowing the panels to follow the sun throughout the day. Under suitable conditions, this technology can generate around 20–30% more electricity than conventional fixed, south-facing ground-mounted solar systems. The tracking system also distributes electricity generation more evenly throughout the day, helping to reduce peaks and support the integration of solar power into the local electricity grid.



Importantly, agricultural production continues alongside electricity generation. At the Ranzinger farm, field grass is cultivated between the rows of solar panels. The grass is used as high-quality animal feed and as a substrate for a biogas plant, contributing to both the region's agricultural and renewable-energy supply. With a panel-row spacing of approximately 13 meters, agricultural machinery can continue to operate efficiently on the land. At the Winklhofer farm, the rows are spaced approximately 17 meters apart, allowing conventional agricultural production to continue. Crops including wheat,

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barley and soybeans are cultivated between the solar panels.

Battery storage to improve grid integration in the future

Battery storage systems are also planned for both installations, with each battery expected to have a capacity of approximately 520 kWh. The batteries will allow surplus solar electricity generated around midday to be stored and then fed into the grid during periods of higher demand, particularly in the evening. Agri-PV with battery storage support can make better use of locally generated solar energy; reduce electricity-demand peaks; improve the flexibility of renewable-energy generation; and support the further integration of renewable energy into the regional electricity grid.



Inspiration for EAGER project

During the visit, representatives from TZE also highlighted the relevance of these Agri-PV installations to the EU-funded EAGER project under Interreg Europe, particularly in relation to knowledge transfer and the exchange of good practices.

The impact not only be seen as a pilot example in the Ruhstorf region, but also serve as an inspiring example for other regions involved in EAGER. By sharing the lessons learned from these installations, the project can support other regions in exploring suitable approaches to Agri-PV and in developing policies and practices that enable the transition towards a more sustainable and resilient energy system while maintaining agricultural production.

Link to the original source:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdec2bc7>

NEWS FROM BULGARIA

Fifth Stakeholders Meeting in Bulgaria of the EAGER project



Date: 11th August 2026

Location: Strelcha, Bulgaria

On the 11th of August 2026, the fifth stakeholders meeting within the frame of the [project EAGER \(Easing AGrophotovoltaics for EuRope\)](#) took place in Strelcha, Bulgaria and was

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organised by the [Regional Energy Agency of Pazardjik \(REAP\)](#) and the [Municipality of Strelcha](#). The event was attended by various stakeholders representing public administrations, NGOs, energy agencies, agri-producers and SMEs.

The meeting commenced with a brief presentation of the project, its main objectives and the partners involved. Experts from [REAP](#) explained the significance of agro-photovoltaics (APV) as a technology that promotes efficient land use and a steady transition towards sustainable energy production from renewable sources.

The event continued with examples of various good practices from different partner regions, combining photovoltaics with either crop cultivation or livestock tending.



During the meeting, special attention was paid to the policy improvement for Bulgaria, which was developed within the project, as part of the Integrated Development Plan of the Municipality of Strelcha. The document titled ***“Concept for Site Selection and Municipal Framework for the Development of Agro-Photovoltaic Systems in***

the Municipality of Strelcha” aims to establish transparent criteria for site selection, preliminary project assessment, and decision-making while ensuring that agricultural production remains the primary land use.

The guideline is expected to be finalised and formally adopted by the Municipality of Strelcha at the beginning of 2027 and is the first of its kind for Bulgaria. The experience gained from developing and implementing this guideline will be disseminated to municipalities across Bulgaria, supporting wider uptake of Agri-PV planning practices beyond the pilot municipality.



The meeting concluded with an open discussion, allowing all stakeholders to express their opinions regarding the concept, which were overwhelmingly positive. Also, the upcoming Study visit to Bulgaria in September 2026 was highlighted as an opportunity for local stakeholders to enhance their APV expertise through European and local insights, expert discussions, and demonstration sites and operational agrivoltaic installations in Bulgaria.

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NEWS FROM BELGIUM

Decision tree criteria for APV projects in Flanders



Date: 2nd September 2026

Location: Bierbeek, Belgium

The goal of this stakeholder meeting was to collect insights and feedback from different stakeholder perspectives on the further development of a decision tree for agrivoltaics (APV) projects in Flanders. The meeting was organised by POM Flemish Brabant and KU Leuven at TRANSfarm in Bierbeek.

During the first part of the meeting, participants were introduced to the EAGER project, the Flemish spatial and policy context for APV, the provincial policy instrument 'Space' and the draft decision tree. This decision tree is intended as a practical assessment framework to evaluate APV initiatives step by step, based on spatial, agricultural and technical criteria. It does not replace formal permitting procedures, but helps structure project preparation and policy discussions.

In an interactive feedback session, stakeholders from policy, agriculture, research, practice and the business sector tested the logic, usability and policy relevance of the decision tree. In a group session, they discussed three concrete APV cases and reflected on key conditions such as agricultural production as the primary activity, the role of the farmer, local use of the generated electricity, landscape integration, crop eligibility, light availability and the monitoring of continued agricultural activity.

The discussion resulted in valuable remarks and suggestions that will be used to set up follow-up meetings and further refine the decision tree and the accompanying document. One of the main points of attention is to strengthen the integration of spatial criteria in the assessment of potential APV zones.

The meeting concluded with a presentation of the new APV installation at TRANSfarm, followed by a site visit. This demonstrator provided participants with a concrete example of APV implementation and created a useful link between the policy discussion, scientific research and practical testing on site.

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EAGER Expert Seminar

EAGER Expert Seminar on Agri-PV and Dual Land Use

To further deepen learning and exchange experiences from the co-coaching partnership within the EAGER project, an expert seminar was held online on 9th of September 2026, as the first part of the policy development workshop. The seminar brings together EAGER project partners and regional policymakers to exchange knowledge and experiences on dual land use, with a particular focus on agriphotovoltaics (Agri-PV).



Date: 9th September 2026

Location: Online

The seminar brought together six experts and regional stakeholders from Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Lithuania, who shared their knowledge, experiences, and perspectives on the development of Agri-PV and related policy frameworks.

The seminar opened with a keynote by Constantin Klyk from AgRadiance, who provided an overview of the current status of APV

development across the EU and highlighted key policy bottlenecks that may hinder its further deployment. This was followed by a presentation on good practices from Spain by Almudena Gómez-Ramos from the University of Valladolid. Drawing on the experience of the Spanish stakeholder region, she presented the methodology and learning outcomes from stakeholder interviews and the study of regional barriers in Agri-PV development in Palencia. From Italy, Alessandro Pin from AESS and Roberto Innocenti from iGreenSystem shared their insights into public funding schemes, funding requirements, and industrial cases, providing practical perspectives on how financial and market-related conditions can support Agri-PV development and what are the current technical barriers in Agri-PV development. Sophie Leemans from POM Vlaams-Brabant, representing the Belgian partner region, shared regional learnings from the EAGER project and presented suggestions for future regional policy improvements to support APV development in densely populated regions. Lastly, Audrius Pravdzinskas from the National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania provided an overview of the national regulatory and policy framework for promoting renewable energy, highlighting the role of public policy in facilitating the transition towards renewable energy solutions.

Together, the contributions provided a valuable cross-regional perspective on the opportunities and challenges for APV development, while creating a strong basis for further discussion and knowledge exchange during the policy development workshop.

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The presentations were followed by an open discussion, allowing participants to exchange experiences and discuss opportunities for developing sustainable dual land-use solutions.

The event contributed to the EAGER project's efforts to support evidence-based regional policies and the wider uptake of Agri-PV across Europe.

Presentations of the event:

1. [Bottlenecks in the European Agri-PV Pipeline and Policy Priorities for Scaling Up;](#)
2. [Assessing Agri-PV Potential in Palencia: Methodology, Results and Policy Implications;](#)
3. [Agri-PV Development and the Public Funding Landscape in Italy;](#)
4. [Policy Frameworks, Investment Decisions and Business Models for Agri-PV;](#)
5. [Policy Strategies for Agri-PV Development in Densely Populated Regions: Lessons from Flanders, Belgium;](#)
6. [Good Practices from Lithuania on Dual Land Use and Policy Updates.](#)

Study Visit in Bulgaria

EAGER Study Visit in Bulgaria: Exploring Agri-PV Solutions and Integrated Energy Systems



Date: 16-17 September 2026

Location: Pazardzhik, Bulgaria

On the 16th and 17th of September 2026, a study visit within the frame of the project EAGER (Easing AGrophotovoltaics for EuRope) took place in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria and was organised by the Regional Energy Agency of Pazardjik (REAP) and the Municipality of Strelcha. The event was attended by over 30 participants, including all project partners, external experts and APV sector lecturers from Bulgaria, along with stakeholders representing regional and local authorities, energy and agricultural organisations, as well as other research institutions.

The first day started with a public session in the morning participated by 45 participants. Welcoming speeches were given by the Regional

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Governor of Pazardzhik province and the Deputy Mayor of Strelcha Municipality. The public session continued with presentations on the EAGER project, legislative framework for Agri-PV in Bulgaria, investment opportunities in agriculture under the Strategic Plan for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas 2023–2027, and the benefits of combining agricultural crops with solar panels. The event also focused on technological solutions supporting the wider deployment of solar energy, including affordable Agri-PV systems, high-bifacial glass/glass modules and energy storage. The morning event highlighted the need for a regulatory framework in Bulgaria to support the adaptation of Agri-PV system, while pointing out the absence of pilot projects and a lack of supporting funding schemes in the region.



The afternoon session continued with a policy development workshop, in which partners were divided into groups and discussed their inspirations from all study visits, joint and regional studies and good practices from all partner countries that can be transferred and implemented in other regions. The first day concluded with a Steering Committee meeting, allowing EAGER partners to exchange

experiences and discuss the next steps of the project.

The second day was dedicated to technical site visits, offering participants the opportunity to see different approaches to ground-mounting systems, photovoltaic technologies and integrated energy systems in practice.



The first visit was to ATARO - a company in Plovdiv, focusing on photovoltaic fixtures and mounting solutions. ATARO and its solar division develop and supply mounting systems for photovoltaic installations, with solutions covering different types and scales of PV projects. The visit provided an opportunity to learn more about the technical aspects of PV installation and the importance of appropriate mounting solutions for the development of solar energy projects.

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The second visit was the “Integrated Energy Systems” field laboratory of the HITMOBIL Centre of Competence, operated by the Institute of Electrochemistry and Energy Systems of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The facility brings together different technologies for renewable energy generation, storage and use. Its infrastructure includes a photovoltaic park, wind generator emulator, different energy storage systems, electric charging facilities and hydrogen technologies. The laboratory is used for research, testing and demonstration of combinations of renewable energy generation and storage under different conditions.



The final visit focused directly on a vertical solar panel installation designed for Agri-PV

applications in Bulgaria, presented by Dr Vesselinka Koch from Gate-East Garching and Solagria BAY BG. The system replaces the traditional steel structure with a wooden structure, offering a more cost-effective solution for the region while maintaining functionality. The visit provided an opportunity to explore a cheaper vertical approach to possible Agri-PV application and discuss how innovative PV configurations can be integrated with agricultural land use.

By bringing together public authorities, researchers, businesses and other stakeholders, the EAGER study visit created an opportunity to connect technical solutions with the policy and planning challenges surrounding the Agri-PV sector's development. The experiences and discussions from the event will contribute to the project's ongoing interregional learning and to identify approaches that can support the improvement of regional policy instruments for Agri-PV across Europe.

Presentations from the event:

1. [EAGER Project Presentation;](#)
2. [APV Legislation in Bulgaria;](#)
3. [Investments in Agriculture in Bulgaria;](#)
4. [Benefits of Agricultural Crops Combined with Solar Panels;](#)
5. [Affordable AgriPV, Based on High Bifacial c-Si Glass/Glass Modules and Simplest Mounting Systems;](#)
6. [Energy Storage as a Key Element for Solar Energy Implementation.](#)

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EAGER Partnerships and Communication Channels

The project includes a well-balanced mixture of partners coming from several main sectors: public authorities (local, regional and national), research institutions, regional development agencies, agriculture representatives, NGOs and energy agencies. Together, we represent varied views across a range of stakeholders and interests, providing competent knowledge and experience in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and policy design. The partnership is characterized by a strong transnational character, covering nine nations within the Interreg Europe Program area, thus ensuring a good geographical and cultural coverage and relevant attention to the issues and needs of a wide range of institutional settings and establishments from European Countries.

University of Applied Sciences
Landshut (TZE) - **Lead partner**,
Germany



<https://www.haw-landshut.de>

Public Institution Lithuanian
Innovation Centre (LIC),
Lithuania



<https://www.lic.lt>

Rzeszow Regional
Development Agency (RARR),
Poland



<https://rarr.rzeszow.pl>

Agricultural and Agrifood
Technological Center
(ITAGRA), Spain



<https://www.itagra.com>

Palencia Provincial Council
(PALENCIA), Spain



<https://www.diputaciondepalencia.es>

National Paying Agency under
the Ministry of Agriculture of
the Republic of Lithuania
(NPA), Lithuania



<https://nma.lrv.lt>

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Nuovo Circondario Imolese
(NCI), Italy



<https://www.nuovocircondarioimolese.it>

Regional Energy Agency of
Pazardjik (REAP), Bulgaria



<https://reap-bg.eu>

Municipality of Strelcha
(STRELCHA), Bulgaria



<https://strelcha.bg>

Catholic University of Leuven
(KU Leuven), Belgium



<https://www.kuleuven.be>

Municipality of Ruhstorf an der
Rott (RUHSTORF), Germany



<https://www.ruhstorf.de>

Provincial Development
Agency (POM) Flemish
Brabant, Belgium



<https://pomvlaamsbrabant.be>

Municipality of Bačka Palanka
(MBP), Serbia



<https://backapalanka.rs>

Institution "Zakarpattia
Regional Development
Agency" (ZRDA), Ukraine



<https://zakarpattia.agency>

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